



# The Lincoln Kinsman

Number 19

Fort Wayne, Indiana

January, 1940

## SYNOPSIS LIFE OF LINCOLN

SOME SIGNIFICANT EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE LIFE OF  
THE EMANCIPATOR

Previous issues of *The Lincoln Kinsman* have presented monographs on individuals and groups related to Abraham Lincoln. It appears that occasionally an issue of the publication should contain references to the President himself.

It would be futile to attempt an exhaustive listing of all the important events which took place in the busy life of Abraham Lincoln. In some respects every lawsuit was an important one from the biographer's viewpoint. The exceedingly large number of addresses which he delivered would be considered of some importance but no complete listing of them has ever been achieved. The thousands of letters and manuscripts and memorandums which he wrote would in themselves make a volume of considerable proportion. The stories he is said to have told are legion.

While this effort to compile certain incidents in the life of Lincoln might be classified as a chronology, it will be observed that the arrangement of

the biographical data has not placed particular emphasis on the dates.

1809

Born in Hardin Co., Ky., Feb. 12.

1811

Moved with parents to Knob Creek.

1812

Brother Thomas born.

1815

Sent to Zachariah Riney's school.

1816

Attended Caleb Hazel's school.

Migrated with family to Indiana about December 1.

Helped father build new cabin.

1817

Shot turkey with father's gun.

1818

Kicked by a horse at mill and seriously injured.

Mother died on October 5.

1819

Father married the widow, Sarah Johnston, December 2.

1820

Listed on U. S. census as a "boy under 16."

Attended Andrew Crawford's school.

**1821**

Stepsister Elizabeth married Dennis Hanks June 9.

**1822**

Attended James Swaney's school.

**1824**

Attended Azel Dorsey's school.

**1826**

Sister Sarah married Aaron Grigsby August 2.

Stepsister Matilda married Squire Hall September 13.

**1827**

Earned first dollar for conveying passengers to steamer.

Operated ferry at Anderson River for Mr. Taylor.

Charged with violating Ohio River ferry ordinance.

**1828**

Sister Sarah Lincoln Grigsby died on January 20.

Helped build flatboat at Rockport.

Piloted flatboat to New Orleans.

Observed slave markets.

**1829**

Worked in store at Gentryville.

**1830**

Migrated with parents from Indiana to Illinois, leaving March 1.

Saved pet dog from drowning near Lawrenceburg, Ill.

Reached Decatur, Ill., on March 15.

Helped build log cabin in Macon Co. and fenced in ten acres of ground.

Raised crop of corn in Macon Co.

**1831**

Paddled a canoe from Macon Co. to Springfield about March 1.

Built flatboat on Sangamon River at Old Sangamon town in March.

Made second flatboat trip to New Orleans in April.

Settled in New Salem in July.

Served as clerk of election August 1.

Cast his first vote at New Salem.

Worked in Offut's mill and store which opened on September 1.

**1832**

Announced as candidate for legislature March 9.

Piloted the steamboat *Talisman* to Beardstown in April.

Enrolled at Richland for service in Black Hawk War on April 21.

Chosen captain by military company.

Mustered out of service July 16 at White River, Wisconsin.

Defeated for legislature August 6.

Purchased interest in Berry store in September.

Served as clerk in national election on November 5.

**1833**

Bought Radford's stock of goods at New Salem in January.

Withdrew from partnership with Berry in April.

Appointed postmaster of New Salem on May 7.

Sued on conveyance bond on Aug. 16.

Appointed deputy surveyor of Sangamon Co.

**1834**

Submitted report on January 14 of first survey.

Began to study law.

Elected to Illinois Legislature from Sangamon Co. August 4.

Elected a delegate to State Educational Convention November 22.

Began service in Illinois Legislature at Vandalia in December.

Met Douglas for first time at Vandalia.

**1835**

Began year holding three offices: representative, postmaster, deputy surveyor.

Grieved by Ann Rutledge's death which occurred August 25.

1836

Surveyed town of Petersburg February 17.

Entered 47 acres of land on Sangamon River March 16.

Sworn in as a lawyer March 24.

Purchased two lots at Springfield.

Relinquished office of postmaster as postoffice was discontinued May 30.

Announced political views in *Sangamon Journal* June 13.

Reelected to legislature August 1.

Wrote will of Joshua Stout Aug. 22.

Applied for license to practice law September 9.

Wrote "Praecepta" in lawsuit as early as October 8.

Became Whig floor leader in Dec.

1837

Proposed marriage to Mary Owens.

Made bank speech in legislature.

Addressed Young Men's Lyceum at Springfield on January 27.

Admitted to bar of Illinois March 1.

Protested against pro-slavery bill in legislature on March 3.

Formed law partnership with Stuart April 12.

Left New Salem on April 15 to make a permanent home in Springfield.

1838

Reelected to legislature.

Served on Springfield board of trustees.

Put forth by Whigs as their candidate for Speaker in House.

1839

Admitted to practice in U. S. District Court.

Promoted first Whig state convention.

Chosen Presidential elector for Harrison.

Delivered sub-treasury speech December 20.

1840

Wrote Whig circular mailed Feb. 4.

Debated with McClernand.

Reelected to legislature in August.

Delivered speeches in southern Ill. and Morganfield, Ky., in Sept.

Choice of Whigs for Speaker of House.

1841

Broke engagement to Mary Todd on January 1.

Made prolonged visit to Joshua Speed at Louisville.

Entered law partnership with Logan May 14.

Proposed as a candidate for governor October 15.

Tried case in July involving freedom of negro girl.

1842

Gave address on temperance at Springfield on February 22.

Admitted to U. S. District Court on March 1.

Challenged to duel by Shields.

Married Mary Todd November 2.

1843

First son Robert born August 1.

Chosen Presidential elector for Clay.

1844

Signed agreement on January 7 to purchase Dresser home.

Received deed to Dresser home on May 2 and took possession.

Formed Herndon partnership September 20.

Visited Indiana home and made several political speeches in October.

Inspired to write several poems upon visit to old home in Indiana.

1846

Son Edward born March 10.

Elected Representative to Congress in August.

1847

Made first visit to Chicago in July.

Leased Springfield home to Cornelius Ludlum for one year.

Left Springfield on October 25 to reside in Washington.

Took Congressional seat December 6.

*The Lincoln Kinsman*

*Published Monthly by*  
 LINCOLNIANA PUBLISHERS  
 Box 1110—Fort Wayne, Ind.



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 BUSINESS MANAGER  
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Annual Subscription.....\$2.00  
 Single Copies......25

**SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN FORMER ISSUES  
 OF THE LINCOLN KINSMAN**

1. The Colonial Lincolns, 2. The Unknown Hanks Ancestry, 3. The Herrings of Virginia, 4. Five Shipley Sisters, 5. The Todd Family, 6. Bush Family Documents, 7. Early 19th Century Lincolns, 8. Kentucky Archives, 9. Abraham Lincoln's Father, 10. Hon. Robert Todd Lincoln, 11. James Wright Sparrow, 12. Uncle Mordecai Lincoln, 13. Thomas (Tad) Lincoln, 14. The Tennessee Lincolns, 15. The Lincolns of Hingham, 16. The Richard Berry Family, 17. Southern Branch of the Hankses. 18. The Lincolns of England.

Introduced "Spot Resolutions" in Congress.

**1848**

Made speech on Mexican War January 12.

Brought to tears by Stephen's speech in Congress.

Made speech on Military Heroes July 27.

Attended Whig Convention at Philadelphia.

Advocated nomination of General Taylor for Presidency.

Made several political addresses in Maryland on behalf of Taylor.

Spoke in several New England cities during month of September.

Visited Niagra Falls for first time.

**1849**

Presented bill to abolish slavery in District of Columbia.

Declined appointment as governor of Oregon.

Granted patent on May 30 for invention of boat device.

Returned to Springfield after session of Congress.

**1850**

Son Edward Baker died on Feb. 1. Contracted for fence and brick foundation to surround his house.

Visited Lexington, Ky., with family. Sought land office appointment for friend.

Pronounced eulogy on President Taylor.

Son William Wallace born Dec. 21.

**1851**

Father Thomas Lincoln died Jan. 17. Appointed to Whig National Committee.

Placed on the Scott electoral ticket. Delivered eulogy on Henry Clay.

**1853**

Son Thomas born April 4.

Aroused by the Missouri Compromise repeal.

Delivered "Anti-Nebraska" speech October 4.

Elected to Illinois Legislature November 7.

Gave Compromise speech at Peoria, Illinois.

Canvassed for Richard Yates for Congress.

**1855**

Defeated for U. S. Senate February 8. Retained in McCormick Reaper patent case.

**1856**

Sat on bench as judge pro tem.

Improved home by adding a second story.

Nominated as Presidential elector.

Delivered "Lost Speech" at Bloomington, May 29.

Received 110 votes for Vice-Presidential nomination at first national Republican Convention on June 19.

Made as many as fifty political speeches during the year.

**1857**

Retained in "Effie Afton" bridge case.

Awarded \$4,800.00 in I. C. R. R. case.

Spoke on Dred Scott Decision June 26.

Visited Niagara Falls with family.

#### 1858

Defended Duff Armstrong in famous murder case in May.

Delivered "House Divided" speech at Springfield June 16.

Spoke on Popular Sovereignty July 10.

Spoke on Lecompton Constitution July 17.

Challenged Douglas to series of debates July 24.

Opened series of debates with Douglas August 20.

Closed series of debates with Douglas October 15.

Delivered speech at Springfield October 30 summarizing arguments of Douglas debates.

Defeated as candidate for Senate by vote of legislators.

Prepared brief sketch for *Dictionary of Congress*.

#### 1859

Submitted opinion on surveying at request of surveyors convention on January 6.

Lectured on "Discoveries and Inventions."

Inspected land at Council Bluffs in August.

Spoke in Indiana and Ohio on political subjects.

Addressed visitors at Wisconsin State Fair on September 30.

Visited Kansas in November.

Wrote autobiographical sketch for Fell.

#### 1860

Engaged in U. S. Circuit Court during month of January.

Supervised publication of debates with Douglas.

Lectured at Cooper Institute in New York on February 27.

Photographed by Brady of New York.

Visited son Robert at Exeter, N. H.

Delivered addresses in Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Gave sittings to Volk for life mask.

Won verdict in famous "Sand Bar" case on April 4.

Nominated as choice for President by Illinois Republican Convention on May 9.

Nominated for Presidency at Chicago on May 18.

Received notification committee at Springfield on May 20.

Visited by Sculptor Volk who made casts of his hands May 21.

Serenaded by Wide-Awakes.

Secured office quarters in State House. Posed for Hicks' portrait painted in State House.

Photographed by Hesler on June 3.

Adopted plan of silence for period of campaign.

Appointed Nicolay as his private secretary.

Appeared for last time as practitioner in U. S. Circuit Court June 20.

Wrote letter to small girl who suggested he wear a beard.

Elected President of U. S. Nov. 6.

Met Vice-president elect Hamlin in Chicago on November 22.

Attended church on Thanksgiving Day.

Began to interview prospective Cabinet members.

Beseiged by office-seekers.

Learned that South Carolina seceded from Union on December 20.

#### 1861

Advised that first shot had been fired January 5 on U. S. ship approaching Fort Sumter.

Visited stepmother in Coles Co., Ill. on January 31.

Learned that a Confederate Congress had convened on February 4.  
 Delivered farewell address at Springfield on February 11.  
 Started on journey to Washington February 11.  
 Addressed numerous gatherings enroute to Washington.  
 Spoke in Indianapolis on his fifty-second birthday, February 12.  
 Entertained by former President Fillmore at Buffalo.  
 Addressed Senate of New Jersey in historic city of Trenton.  
 Advised that Jefferson Davis had been inaugurated President of Confederate States on February 18.  
 Hoisted flag at Independence Hall and gave noted address on February 22.  
 Advised his life would be in danger if he went through Baltimore.  
 Traveled from Harrisburg to Washington incognito.  
 Arrived in Washington February 23.  
 Replied to welcome by Mayor of Washington on February 27.  
 Responded to serenade on February 28.  
 Delivered First Inaugural address on March 4.  
 Attended Inaugural Ball at White House.  
 Called first Cabinet meeting for March 9.  
 Ordered General Scott on March 9 to maintain all government property under the militia.  
 Requested on March 15 Cabinet members' reactions on relief of Fort Sumter.  
 Ordered on March 29 relief expedition to set out for Fort Sumter.  
 Replied to Virginia Convention committee on April 13.

Issued proclamation on April 13 calling for 75,000 volunteers and convening Congress.  
 Ordered closing southern ports April 19.  
 Interviewed the Mayor and citizens of Baltimore with respect to troops passing through city.  
 Called 500,000 volunteers May 3.  
 Interviewed committee from Maryland Legislature.  
 Proclaimed martial law May 10.  
 Called for 300,000 volunteers July 2.  
 Authorized General Scott on July 3 to suspend Writ of Habeas Corpus.  
 Wrote letter of condolence to Col. Ellsworth's parents.  
 Presented first message to Congress on July 4.  
 Vested with war powers by Congress on July 22.  
 Appointed General McClellan Commander of the Army of the Potomac on July 27.  
 Called for 300,000 militia August 4.  
 Proclaimed in August a day of fasting and prayer for September.  
 Prohibited commercial intercourse with rebellious states.  
 Modified martial law act of Fremont.  
 Issued order November 1 retiring General Scott.  
 Urged compensated emancipation in Delaware.  
 Proposed arbitration in Trent Affair.  
 Presented First Annual Message to Congress, December 3.  
 1862  
 Appointed Stanton Secretary of War January 13.  
 Issued general war order No. 1 on January 27.  
 Issued special war order No. 1 on January 31.  
 Issued proclamation concerning Washington's birthday.

Son William died February 20.

Urged gradual emancipation March 6.

Assumed active command of army and navy on March 11.

Conferred with border state congressmen.

Signed act on April 16 emancipating slaves in District of Columbia.

Responded to visit from Evangelical Lutherans May 6.

Replied to resolution of Methodists May 15.

Ordered taking over railroads May 25.

Ordered the forming of the army of Virginia June 26.

Signed bill July 2 providing for grants of land to be used in establishing educational institutions.

Called for 300,000 volunteers on July 2 for three years.

Conferred with Congressman from border states on July 12.

Mentioned Emancipation Proclamation to Cabinet on July 13.

Authorized the employment of contrabands July 22.

Read first draft of Emancipation Proclamation on July 22.

Appointed Halleck head of army July 23.

Called for 300,000 militia on August 4 for nine months.

Addressed Union meeting at Washington, August 6.

Replied to Greeley's editorial Aug. 19.

Modified General Fremont's slave proclamation for Missouri.

Suspended Writ of Habeas Corpus to all persons under arrest.

Visited Antietam October 1.

Ordered provisional court established in Louisiana October 20.

Made McClellan head of all armies of U. S. November 1.

Ordered Gen. McClellan relieved of command November 5.

Commended the observance of the Sabbath by order of November 16.

Presented annual message to Congress on December 1.

Ordered December 6 execution of Sioux Indians.

Pardoned "The Sleeping Sentinel," William Scott of Vermont.

Sent congratulations to Army of Potomac December 22.

Gave opinion on admitting West Virginia to Union December 31.

#### 1863

Issued Emancipation Proclamation January 1.

Wrote letter to Workingmen of Manchester, England, January 19.

Relieved General Burnside from command January 25.

Called special session of Congress for March 4.

Visited Army of Potomac and reviewed troops on April 7.

Issued proclamation admitting West Virginia to Union April 20.

Appointed national fast day for April 30.

Signed the enrollment and liability of aliens act on May 8.

Ordered Vollandigham beyond military lines May 19.

Replied to members of Presbyterian assembly.

Announced news from Gettysburg on July 4.

Proclaimed act on forfeiture and seizure.

Ordered a day of Thanksgiving on August 6 for success of army.

Wrote famous letter August 26 on Emancipation to Union men of Illinois.

Replied to Sons of Temperance.

Suspended Writ of Habeas Corpus in certain cases on September 15.

Called for 300,000 more men on October 17.

Proclaimed the first national annual Thanksgiving Day to be observed on last Thursday in November, 1863.

Photographed by Gardner on November 8 just before Gettysburg speech.

Delivered Gettysburg Address November 19.

Invited citizens on Dec. 7 to assemble in churches and thank God for victories.

Issued Proclamation of Amnesty December 8.

Presented annual message to Congress on December 9.

#### 1864

Ordered a draft of 500,000 men on February 1.

Had picture taken with son Tad on February 9.

Replied to committee from Workingman's Democratic Republican Association of New York March 4.

Placed Grant at head of Union forces on March 9.

Ordered a draft of 200,000 men on March 14.

Speech on closing of Sanitary Fair at Baltimore March 18.

Spoke to group in patent office on March 18.

Made address at Sanitary Fair in Baltimore April 18.

Replied to Baptist group May 14.

Replied to Methodist group May 14.

Renominated for the Presidency June 7.

Visited the Sanitary Fair at Philadelphia on June 16.

Wrote letter accepting Presidential nomination on June 27.

Issued proclamation concerning reconstruction July 8.

Wrote famous letter to Horace Greeley July 9.

Issued call for 500,000 volunteers on July 18.

Wrote open letter to Greeley about confederate commission July 18.

Issued manifesto relating to peace envoys on July 18.

Replied to committee of colored people presenting Bible.

Issued proclamation on October 31 admitting Nevada to the Union.

Proclaimed second annual Thanksgiving Day on last Thursday in November.

Reelected President of U. S. on November 8.

Replied to serenade on night of his election.

Replied to Maryland Union Committee November 17.

Wrote famous letter to Widow Bixby November 21.

Presented his last annual message on December 6.

Nominated Chase for Supreme Court December 6.

Issued call for 300,000 volunteers on December 19.

#### 1865

Responded to serenade on January 31. Conference with confederate commission at Hampton Roads.

Offered pardon to deserters.

Inaugurated President March 4.

Visited City Point, Virginia.

Entered the city of Richmond, Virginia, April 4.

Serenaded at White House on April 11 and delivered his last speech.

Issued proclamation concerning immunity of U. S. vessels April 11.

Presided over Cabinet for last time April 14.

Assassinated on April 14.

Died at 7:22 A. M. on April 15.